



Town of Groton - Public Works

Meeting Minutes

Permanent School Building Committee

134 Groton Long Point Rd
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Public Works
Administration
(860) 448-4083

Chairman Rick DeMatto, Vice-Chairman W. Gordon Lange, Robert J. Austin-LaFrance, Richard Monteiro, Robert Morrison, David Russell, and John Webster.

Thursday, December 15, 2005

7:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

Regular Meeting

1. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chairman Rick DeMatto, Richard Monteiro, Robert Morrison, David Russell and John Webster

Members Absent: Robert J. Austin-LaFrance

Staff: Rick Norris, Project Manager-School Construction, Wes Greenleaf, Director of School Buildings and Grounds, and Linda Martin, Recorder.

The School Superintendent, Town Manager, Public Works Director, several members of the Town Council and Board of Education, Scott Cella and Greg Smolley of JCJ, and Mr. Manning of Gilbane Building Company, as well as numerous Town residents, were present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

2. WELCOME

Chairman DeMatto introduced members of the Permanent School Building Committee and turned the meeting over to Greg Smolley of JCJ for a Presentation of the Design Development Report.

3. PRESENTATION OF DESIGN DEVELOPMENT REPORT TO TOWN COUNCIL AND BOARD OF EDUCATION

The JCJ presentation, which was recorded and televised on GMTV, included slides of the 3 school projects - Fitch High School Addition and Renovations, and Catherine Kolnaski and Northeast Academy Elementary Schools construction. The presentation focused on the design details such as lighting, site drainage, building security, and air quality. At Fitch, the anticipated completion date of construction is December 2007 with renovation completion August 2008. The two elementary schools are slated for completion in August 2007.

A question and answer period followed presentation.

At the conclusion of the presentation Chairman DeMatto stated PSBC has spend many hours reviewing the plans and will continue to do so. The committee has a great deal of confidence in the architects and construction management company. He also thanked Rick Norris and Wes Greenleaf of staff for their support.

The public presentation portion of the meeting ended at 8:10 pm and the Permanent School Building Committee took a short recess.

4. RECESS

Following the recess the regular PSBC meeting was reconvened at 8:20 pm by Chairman DeMatto.

5. RECEIPT OF CITIZEN'S PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**(a) December 8, 2005**

A motion was made by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Mr. Russell, to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 8, 2005 as written. The motion pass unanimously.

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS (other than Subcommittee reports)**(a) PSBC Members**

None.

(b) Department of Public Works Staff

Mr. Norris reported the PCT meetings with the State Board of Education were requested.

Mr. Norris reported he submitted the Inland Wetland permit to the I/W Agency December 14. They are conducting site walks to look at the wetlands January 9, 2006 at 2:00. There should be no problems.

Site plans for Fitch are ready to go forward to Planning Commission. Typically, they would be approached after the Inland/Wetlands is in place.

He also reported he will meet with URS next week regarding hazardous material inspection at Fitch High School.

Ash disposal and fuel tank removal at Freeman Hathaway need to be discussed.

The Playscape at the Northeast School still needs to be removed before construction. The Town Recreation Department is looking to remove and reuse it.

Mr. Webster questioned whether the demolition work at Fitch High School and Freeman Hathaway is part of the plan and reimbursable from the State. At this point it is not clear if the State will reimburse the Town for this demolition but the plan is to move forward and include demolition as part of the project.

(c) Board of Education Staff

Mr. Greenleaf stated Board of Education met last Monday and discussed the Northeast Academy and size of classrooms. Discussed how many students the NE Academy would hold. There will be 20 classrooms at the school. The chance of adding additional classrooms back into the plan is remote. Mr. DeMatto stated each of the schools is designed to meet the needs of the children in the neighborhood in the terms of size. They are designed to easily be added on to in the future as the area grows in population. The schools meet the educational needs of the Board of Ed.

In a letter dated November 23, the Town requested a Planned Completion Test (PCT) meeting for January with the State. The State claims they cannot find the letter and that meeting would probably be a March or April, putting the Town 2 months behind schedule. That is unacceptable to the Town. Mr. Greenleaf is still waiting to get a definite date from the State. Mr. DeMatto proposed getting State Legislators to help.

The BOE needs to consider final approval of plans at their meeting January 9. They will look at the educational specifications. Mr. Smolley stated the BOE looks at and approves the educational specs. based upon how the facility functions as a school; the State looks at the plan for compliance with safety codes; Gilbane looks at it for completeness and constructability and the PSBC approves that.

Rick Norris stated there will also be an independent review, an item already in the budget.

(d) Jeter, Cook & Jepson

JCJ met with the Fire Marshal about the Northeast Academy water supply from Aquarion Water

Company, using a tank system. Additional discussions will be needed to finalize plans.

JCJ, Mr. Norris, and Mr. Greenleaf walked Fitch High School with the Fire Marshal to evaluate egress from the auditorium. Based on this meeting and some minor modifications, the auditorium should remain available for use during construction.

Elementary schools will be bid in 3 phases: site, demolition, building; furniture, fixtures and equipment; and playscapes.

The High School maybe evaluated by the Bureau of School Facilities in 2 phases: Building; and furniture, fixtures and equipment.

(e) Gilbane Building Company

Mr. Manning said the meeting with the Fire Marshal went extremely well and a good rapport is building. Minimal work needed to keep Fitch High School completely occupiable during construction.

Mr. Manning reported he met with Public Works staff to clarify some of the language in the draft trade contract. He now has a phone number for the construction trailer (449-1166). Start date for construction on elementary schools was May 1; a change in PCT would push that out 2 months . Fitch High School start date June 12, the Monday after graduation. He is still checking date for electrical connection for the trailer.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The next meeting will be January 5, 2006 at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall Annex.

9. NEW BUSINESS

10. OTHER BUSINESS

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Vice Chairman Lange at 9:30 pm.